Supply of anti-terrorism weapons by Russia

3071. SHR1MATIJAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has offered anti-terrorism weapons to India:

(b) if so, the broad features of the agreement in this regard;

(c) the main items of the weaponary to be supplied to the country; and

(d) by when these weapons are likely to be in possession of our country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

India's decision to side with the US on National Missile Defence

3072. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to side with the US on National Missile Defence;

(b) if so, whether one of the main reasons is that it is a tool to contain China;

(c) whether this decision has helped in growing Indo-US ties and India is tapping the US market; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision has helped India by getting the US defence aid?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Escorting by Indian Navy frigates of US battle ship to Malacca Straits

3073. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that frigates of the Indian Navy escorted the US battle ship to the Malacca Straits for the Afghan campaign; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE EERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of Hindi as Official Language

† 3074. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers and employees working in Official Language Departments constituted in ordnance factories and other organisations under Defence Ministry;

(b) the names of journals being published from these organisations and whether their publication is regular; and

(c) the details of the agenda prepared by the Ministry for use and promotion of official language for the last meeting of Hindi Salahakar Samiti?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The total number of sanctioned posts of Director (Official Language), Deputy Director (Official Language), Assistant Director (Official Language), Senior Translator, Junior Translator and equivalent/above, obtaining in all the ordnance factories and Inter-Service Organisations under the Ministry of Defence are as follows:

All Inter-Service Organisations	142
AH Ordnance Factories	156
All Defence Undertakings	60

Names of Hindi/bilingual magazines published by the Ordnance factories and Inter-Service Organisations under the Ministry of Defence are enclosed at Statement-I *(See* below). These magazines are published almost regularly.

There are two Hindi Salahakar Samitis in the Ministry of Defence i.e. one for the Department of Defence and Department of Defence Research and Development and the other for the Department of Defence Production and Supplies. The Hindi Salahakar Samiti of the Department of Defence Production and Supplies was re-constituted on 11th November 2001 and no meeting of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.